

A request for a one-month extension of time to respond is being filed concurrently herewith.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

a1 14. (Amended) The catheter assembly of claim 1, wherein:
the sheath is formed from polyurethane with a shore hardness of 45D or
lower.

gib a2 18. (Amended) An apparatus for delivering an endoprosthesis within a
body lumen, comprising:
an endoprosthesis;
means for delivering the endoprosthesis within a body lumen, the means
for delivering having a proximal end portion and a distal end portion;
means for expanding the endoprosthesis, the means for expanding
associated with the distal end portion of the means for delivering, wherein the
endoprosthesis is disposed on the means for expanding; and

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means for retaining the endoprosthesis, the means for retaining being disposed on the means for delivering and over the endoprosthesis, wherein the means for retaining is configured to rupture to allow the endoprosthesis to expand into a deployed position when inflation fluid is introduced into the means for expanding.

A3

31. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein:
the means for retaining is formed from polyurethane.

A4

33. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein:
the means for retaining is formed from a material selected from the group consisting of polyurethanes, polyetheretherketone, polyether amides, copolyesters, and expandable polytetrafluoroethylene.

A5

41. (Amended) The catheter assembly of claim 35, wherein:
the sheath is formed from polyurethane.

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action dated May 8, 2002.